

REMOVING LIMITATIONS ON RECLAMATION INVESTIGATION APPROPRIATIONS IN ALASKA

AUGUST 4, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GRUENING, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1514]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1514), to amend the act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 618), having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

TEXT OF S. 1514

The text of the bill is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 618) is amended by striking section 3 thereof and substituting therefor a new section 3 which shall read as follows:

"SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act."

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The objective of S. 1514, sponsored by Senators Bartlett and Gruening, is to remove the limitation on the authorization for appropriations for the investigation of the water resources of Alaska.

Since Alaska became the 49th State of the Union, it should be treated as any other State concerned with water resource development. Its immense potentials in power and related resources require full investigation.

COMMENTS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

The comments of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of the Budget are as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., July 9, 1959.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: This responds to your request for the views of this Department on S. 1514, a bill to amend the act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 618).

We recommend that the bill be enacted.

The act of August 9, 1955, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior "to make investigations of projects for the conservation, development, and utilization of the water resources of Alaska * * *" and authorizes the appropriation in any one fiscal year of not more than \$250,000 for this purpose. If S. 1514 is enacted, this limitation on the authorization for appropriations would be removed.

The limitation is an arbitrary one that bears no relationship to the attainment of an effective program of investigations in Alaska. There appears to be no reason why Alaska should be singled out for such a restriction, unless it should be considered justified in view of the preferential treatment afforded Alaska in granting to it 90 percent of the proceeds from coal leases, the operation of coal mines, and the leasing of public lands. None of the proceeds from mineral leases on public lands located in Alaska are paid into the reclamation fund. The Federal reclamation laws do not apply to Alaska. The provisions of the act of August 9, 1955, provide the basic authority for a program of investigation of water resources projects in Alaska by this Department.

The specified maximum amount of \$250,000 operates as a limiting factor not only on the number of investigations which can be conducted simultaneously, but also on the intensity of studies at any one time. Thus, investigations of certain potential projects have had to be extended over a period of several years because of the limitation, with consequent added expenses for overhead and other costs.

In our opinion the enactment of this measure may result in more flexibility and increased efficiency in the conduct of Alaska investigations; and if the bill should be enacted, the Congress would nonetheless still retain control over the extent of investigation activities in Alaska through its appropriations procedures.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there would be no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

FRED G. AANDAHL,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., July 8, 1959.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your letter of March 25, 1959, requesting the views of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 1514, a bill to amend the act of August 9, 1955.

The purpose of this bill is to remove the appropriation limitation of \$250,000 annually for the Department of the Interior to make investigations of projects for the conservation, development, and utilization of the water resources of Alaska.

The Department of the Interior, in its proposed report recommending enactment of S. 1514, states the bill would provide more flexibility and increased efficiency in the conduct of its Alaskan investigations and that the Congress would still retain control over the extent of such investigations through appropriation procedures.

The Bureau of the Budget would have no objection to enactment of S. 1514.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIP S. HUGHES,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.

○

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
JANUARY 10, 1933

THE HONORABLE SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 10, 1933, regarding the proposed legislation for the establishment of a National Bureau of Investigation. I am pleased to hear that you are interested in this matter and am sure that your efforts will be successful in securing the passage of this important legislation. I am sure that the establishment of such a bureau will be of great benefit to the country and will help to maintain the peace and order of the Nation.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. Edgar Hoover

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation